

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

POST 16 TRAVEL STATEMENT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN OBJECTIVES

The Post-16 Travel Policy Statement for 2016-17 provides information on the travel options available for Post-16 mainstream students resident in Bath and North East Somerset .

In an effort to reduce reliance on private car use and help develop the necessary skills for adult life, young people are actively encouraged and supported to travel independently to school/college or their place of work.

All Local Authorities in England have a duty to prepare and publish an annual Transport Policy Statement which complies with the requirements of section 509 of the Education Act 1996 as amended by Section 83 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 regarding adequate provision of transport to facilitate the attendance of learners of sixth form age. The Transport Policy Statement describes the transport support available to young people aged 16-19 years.

2. TRAVEL SUPPORT OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO 16-19 STUDENTS

The travel support options available to all students aged 16-19 in learning or training are as follows:

- (i) Bath and North East Somerset's fare paying scheme Scheme. This is available for students attending Bath and North East Somerset schools.
- (ii) Students may purchase discounted travel tickets from the First Bus Group. <https://firstgroup.com/students/>
- (iii) Students may apply for a 16-25 Student Railcard. Further information is available at www.16-25rail-card.co.uk.

Fare Paying Scheme

Sixth form students attending Bath and North East Somerset schools may be able to purchase a concessionary place at a subsidised rate of £300* per annum (price as at September 2015] providing spare seats are available. Fare paying seats are available only at the beginning and end of the school day. The application form and scheme conditions are available on the Council website <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/schools-colleges-and-learning/home-school-transport>

Discounted First Bus Student Tickets

First Bus Student Tickets: A number of student saver tickets are available but usually require a student photocard. Details are available on the following link with First Bus <https://www.firstgroup.com/students/>

Student Railcards

Details on student railcards are available at the following link <http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>

Travel Assistance: Young learners from families on low income–Bursary Fund

Young learners aged 16-19 attending further education or training may be eligible to receive financial support under a government scheme called the 16-19 Bursary Fund. The Bursary Fund can help pay for essential education-related costs including travel costs. Schools and colleges are responsible for awarding bursaries and verifying eligibility of students. Institutions are free to determine the assessment criteria for eligibility for bursaries awarded on a discretionary basis. Vulnerable students, such as those in care, care leavers, young people in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit and disabled students in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance, or Personal Independence Payments are eligible for a bursary of £1,200 for a full academic year.

Students are advised to contact their school, college or training provider's *Student Support Services* to see if they are eligible to receive a 16-19 Bursary Fund/financial help. Contact details for education providers are set out at the end of this document. Details of the scheme are also available at <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>. Please note that the Council does not administer the Bursary Fund.

Travel Assistance: Young Parents

Young parents may be eligible for support with childcare and travel costs and learning providers are encouraged to support young people to apply for Care to Learn (C2L). Details are available at www.gov.uk/care-to-learn.

How and When to Apply?

Sixth form students attending a Bath and North East Somerset School may apply for travel assistance under the fare paying travel scheme. Application forms are available from the Admissions & Transport Team or the Council website <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/schools-colleges-and-learning/home-school-transport> from **June 2016**.

Post-16 students attending further education colleges are advised to contact the individual college concerned at the earliest opportunity to find out full details/terms and conditions of transport concessions on offer.

BATH COLLEGE

Contact Details

City Centre
Campus
Avon Street
Bath
BA1 1UP
Somer Valley
Campus
South Hill Park
Radstock
BA3 3RW

E Mail enquiries@bathcollege.ac.uk

Further details on getting to the college are available at :-
<https://www.bathcollege.ac.uk/college-life/getting-to-college>

This page gives details of public bus and rail services, park and ride options as well as the cost of college buses.

3. Learners attending further education, with Learning Difficulties/Disabilities or Special Educational Needs who live in Bath and North East Somerset.

This travel policy statement applies to students aged 16-19 who attend their nearest further education establishments. Consideration will also be given to 19-25 year olds who are continuing to progress and meet criteria under the low income policy to enable participation.

1. Summary of Policy Statement and Main Objectives You should note that your Local Authority is under no obligation to provide travel support for students attending further education establishments.

Students are normally expected to progress in their relevant study plan to continue to access travel support from their Local Authority.

The Local Authority may exercise its discretion, where they believe it appropriate, to ask students, parents and carers for a contribution towards travel costs. This policy will apply to students in receipt of DLA with a mobility/vehicle allowance so the Local Authority may ask students/parents/carers for a contribution towards travel costs in this instance.

Our travel policy promotes and supports:

- The Government's initiative to increase walking, cycling and bus travel.

- The Local Authorities School Travel Plan Strategies and independent travel.

The nature and mode of travel support will be determined by the Local Authority and will be one that is consistent with the Local Authority's duty to secure Value for Money.

Taxi and minibus transport will be provided only where there is no feasible alternative.

The desired outcome of this approach is actively to encourage young people to travel as independently and inclusively as possible and to develop confidence and vital travel and social skills to support options for post 16 training and employment thereafter.

Support with travel for students with LDD/SEN will be considered up to the end of the academic year in which the student becomes 19. Consideration will be given to support beyond the age of 19.

2. Who is eligible for support with travel?

Each Local Authority will consider travel arrangements for students who are attending the nearest appropriate further education provision and:

- Have had a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP), or medical or physical difficulties, which means they are unable to walk the distance of 3 miles (accompanied as necessary) and
- Are studying a full time course

Students under Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset who meet the criteria for transport and request a taxi will be required to undertake two weeks independent travel training. Their ability to travel independently will be assessed by personnel from the Wiltshire Independent Travel Support (WITS) service.

NB It is important to note that learners must apply annually for travel support and all travel support is subject to review.

3. How do students apply for support with travel?

An application form can be obtained from your home Local Authority (your Local Council).

Or

You may be able to obtain an application form from one of the following:

College

Disability Support Coordinator

School

The applicant is responsible for returning the completed application form. Completed application forms should be sent to the Local Authority in which the student lives (some Local Authorities may request additional information):

**Bath and North East Somerset
Council**

People and Communities
SSEN Service (Post 16 Transport)
Lewis House
Manvers Street
Bath BA1 1JQ
Email: Special_EducationalNeeds@bathnes.gov.uk /
kate_potter@bathnes.gov.uk

To ensure that arrangements are in place for the start of the academic year applications for support with travel need to be received as far in advance as possible. **Please be aware that we cannot guarantee that transport will be in place for the start of the academic year if the application is received too late**

4. What support is provided for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those over 19?

On a case by case basis learners over 19 and up to the age of 25 may be considered for support with travel. Should support be granted learners will need to apply yearly and decisions will be based on any changing needs, changes in circumstances, progression in learning and in line with the policy.

5. Decisions on eligibility for support with travel

Decisions relating to students who did not previously have a Statement of Special Educational Needs prior to the introduction of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCP) will be assessed on a case by case basis. Decisions will take into account the age of the student, and the journey and medical evidence provided by colleagues and other partners.

The assessment of support with travel needs will be made in line with this Travel Policy and will draw together any information from the relevant college/school, the student and other colleagues.

The mode of travel provided will vary according to the changing needs of the individual student in the most inclusive, sustainable and cost effective way. In some cases a mileage payment may be made to the parent/carer/student.

6. What independence training is available?

For young people with Statements of Special Education Needs or an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP), schools are actively encouraged to use the annual review process as an opportunity to discuss the young person's transition to post 16 study or training. Schools and colleges are normally expected to empower the young person to develop the necessary skills to become independent travellers.

7. What support can students apply for if they need to travel to a course that is outside the Local Authority area?

Local Authorities will consider applications for support with travel from disabled students to colleges outside the area, if the course is considered to be the nearest appropriate course for the student. Applications should be made to the Local Authority in which the student lives. Support with travel will be approved only if the individual application represents reasonable public expenditure. The Local Authority will normally provide support with travel, at the start and end of each term, for disabled students at Independent Specialist Providers. The mode of support with travel will be assessed by the Travel Team in line with the student's needs and the policy.

8. What support is available for students choosing to attend further education which is beyond daily travelling distance?

Students wishing to study on a course that is beyond daily travel distance should contact the Local Authority to discuss this.

For students who are moving to a Post 16 Independent Specialist Provider (residential college), the application form will be completed by the current school, the student or parent/carer.

Support with travel will be provided at the start and end of each term (ie.12 journeys) for students in residential college.

9. What support is available for students who do not meet these criteria?

The majority of learners are able to access their chosen course by walking / public transport. Where communities are not well served by public transport then a number of post 16 providers make innovative, strategic arrangements supported by the Transport Partnership.

10. What support is available for learners on Apprenticeships or Traineeships?

The learning provider is responsible for ensuring that learners have reasonable expenses met in full, where reasonable expenses are needed to overcome barriers to learning. These may include the cost of travelling to or from the place of learning or work placement. Employers are encouraged to support trainees with expenses such as transport and meals.

It may also be worth asking the learning provider if they offer their own transport service as some may do this.

11. Appeals process

All applications for travel support are considered in line with the policy criteria. Where applications do not fulfil the policy conditions set out above, consideration will be given to the individual's circumstances. However, students, parents/carers have a right to appeal. Please see below for details of the appeal process.

All appeals will be considered on an individual basis in line with this criterion. To submit an appeal the applicant should put in writing the reason for the appeal together with any supporting evidence e.g. medical report to:

Bath and North East Somerset Council

People and Communities

SEN Service (Post 16 Transport)

Lewis House

Manvers Street

Bath BA1 1JQ

Email: Special_EducationalNeeds@bathnes.gov.uk /

kate_potter@bathnes.gov.uk

12. Travel information

First Bus Student Tickets

Details of where to obtain these can be found at www.firstgroup.com along with the current price of various types of ticket.

Wessex Buses

For information on Wessex buses which serve Bath, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, their website is:-

<http://wessexconnect.com/>

Railcards

A 16-25 Railcard saves 1/3 on rail fares throughout Great Britain for a year. Minimum fares apply for travel at or before 10.00am Monday to Friday (except during July and August). For further details and up-to-date prices go to

<http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk>

*The £300 charge is subject to inflation and annual review of the charge.

Date of Statement May 2016.

Review Date May 2017.